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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/824,350	04/15/2004	Nam Seon Cho	0465-1165PUS1	6334
2292 7590 04/02/2007 BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			EXAMINER ING, MATTHEW W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3637	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/02/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 04/02/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/824,350

Applicant(s)

CHO, NAM SEON

Examiner

Matthew W. Ing

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3 January 2007 has been entered.
2. Although the set of claims submitted in the after-final amendment dated 3 January 2007 are being considered as the basis for the rejections set forth in this Office Action, it is noted that claims 1, 4-6, 7, 12, 14-19 do not correspond with claims 1, 4-6, 7, 12, 14-20 from the previous set of claims, dated 21 September 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1 and 3-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art disclosed by the applicant in Figures 1-3 of his application, in view of Darden (5,460,212) and Lange (DE 3,606,805).
5. The prior art of Figures 1-3 teaches the structure substantially as claimed above, including a refrigerator (1); a door (3) opening and closing said refrigerator, said door being a sliding door; a handle (4) located on a side of the door, said handle being located on a front side of the refrigerator; and a plurality of handle holders (5) each having an end fixed to the door and another end attached to the handle; said handle holders being

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located on each side of the handle, and being fixed to the door by at least two screws (aka "a securing mechanism") penetrating the handle holder.

6. The only difference between the admitted prior art of Figures 1-3 is that and the structure claimed by the applicant is that the admitted prior art fails to teach a groove, being formed on the door, for inserting the supporting member, wherein a depth of the groove is the same as a thickness of the supporting member; and a supporting member provided on each of the handle holders and preventing damage from occurring on the handle holder; said supporting member being protruded downwards on a lower surface of the handle holder; said supporting member being located on a contacting surface between the handle holder and the door; said supporting member having a width smaller than that of the handle holder; said supporting member being integrated with the handle holder; said supporting member being provided at a surrounding region of a hole through which the screws are penetrated; said supporting member being provided on a lower surface of a surrounding region of a hole through which a screw closer to the handle is penetrated.

7. Lange, however, teaches a groove (4), being formed on a door (2) between the surface of said door and an attachable structure (10); said groove being used for inserting a supporting member (5). See Figure 1. Additionally, Darden teaches the shaping of a groove (84) to accommodate a supporting member (94), such that the depth of the groove is the same as a thickness of the supporting member (see Figures 1, 3, 9, and 10). Darden also teaches the inclusion of a supporting member (94) on an attachable structure (92) to be attached via screw (104) to a larger structure (44), wherein the supporting member is protruded downwards on a lower surface (Item A – see Figure 10 Annotated, above) of the attachable structure (92); said supporting member being located on a contacting

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surface (Item A – see Figure 10 Annotated, above; see also Figures 1 & 3 of Darden) between the attachable structure (92) and the larger structure (44); said supporting member having a width smaller than that of the handle holder (see Figures 1 & 3); said supporting member being integrated with the handle holder (see Figures 9 and 10); said supporting member being provided at a surrounding region of a hole through which the screws are penetrated (see Figures 3 & 9); said supporting member being provided on a lower surface of a surrounding region of a hole through which a screw closer to the handle is penetrated (see Figures 3 & 9).

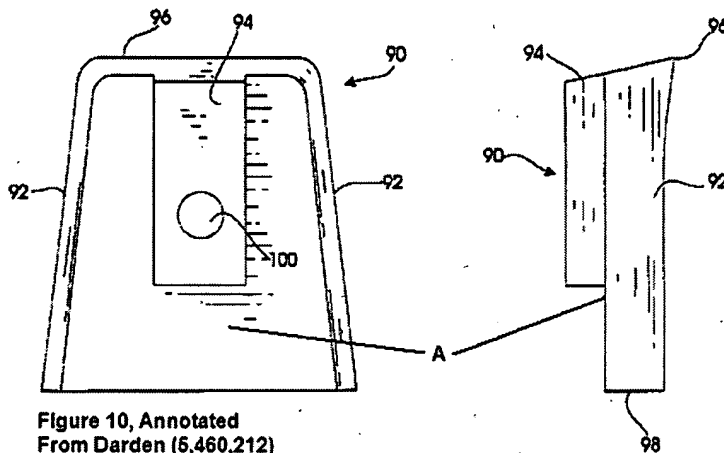


Figure 10, Annotated
From Darden (5,460,212)

8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the groove of Lange, and the supporting member and groove shape of Darden, into the handle holder and refrigerator door of the admitted prior art in order to provide a more secure connection between the handle-holder and door, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.
9. Regarding claims 1 and 16, examiner points out that, whereas the supporting member (94) of Darden is located closer to the front of both the attachable structure (92) and the larger structure (44) than the rear thereof (see Figures 3 & 10); and whereas said

supporting member is only located around one screw (104); it can therefore be concluded that the combination of the teachings of Lange and Darden with those of the admitted prior art would produce a structure wherein the supporting member on each handle holder was located around the screw that was closer to the front of both the handle holder and refrigerator; and (therefore) wherein "the supporting member is disposed between the handle and a securing mechanism".

10. Regarding claims 5 and 19, whereas Darden teaches a supporting member (94) that is of a single piece with the attachable structure (92) from which it depends, the combination of the teachings of Lange and Darden with those of the admitted prior art would obviously produce a structure wherein the supporting member and handle holder are a single piece. Additionally, the examiner points out that forming in one piece an article which has formerly been formed in two pieces has been held to involve only routine skill in the art.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed 3 January 2007 have been fully considered but they are not fully persuasive.

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

13. Applicant's arguments regarding the Sueyoshi reference are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

14. In response to applicant's argument that Darden (5,460,212) is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the

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applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. In this case, Darden is reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned. The attachable structure (92) of Darden can be analogized to the handle holder of the admitted prior art, in that both are smaller structures being fixed via screws to larger structures; and that, in this light, Darden can be seen as merely teaching the inclusion of a supporting member on any generic attachable structure. The examiner also points out that, although the larger structure (44) of Darden cannot be easily analogized to any type of door, Lange, as mentioned above, teaches the inclusion of a groove upon a generic door for the purposes of accommodating a supporting member. The examiner also points out that the inclusion of the supporting member taught by Darden on the underside of handle holder of the admitted prior art would obviously have the beneficial side-effect effect of providing structural reinforcement to said handle-holder; and would obviously serve to lessen the probability of failure due to fatigue. The examiner further points out that it is well known in the art that thickening a structure increases its structural rigidity. Hence, the examiner concludes that the teachings of Darden and Lange *are* reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned; and that as such, applicant's arguments to the contrary are not persuasive.

Conclusion

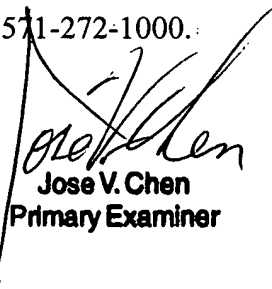
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew W. Ing whose telephone number is (571) 272-6536. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MWI
9 March 2007


Jose V. Chen
Primary Examiner